GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2236
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
BACTERIA IN PACKAGED WATER
RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent study conducted by the Environment Department of the Ministry has revealed an alarming rate of bacteria in the packaged water;

(b) if so, whether the manufacturers of the packaged water are the same whose mineral water products were found containing pesticides;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) The Department of Consumer Affairs, Govt. of West Bengal, Kolkata in collaboration of West Bengal Pollution Control Board has drawn 314 samples of different brands of Packaged Drinking water and tested at the laboratory of Pollution Control Board, Kolkata. Out of 314 samples, 46 samples of different brands were found to contain coliform group of bacteria.

(b) & (c) Some of the brands namely, Aquafina, Bailly, Bisleri, Kinley and Prime are common in both the studies.

(d) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) who are the licencing authority have also analysed around 100 samples of the same brands in Kolkata but according to their report non of the brands stated in the report were found failing in coliform count.

BIS has also stated that now they have introduced stricter control over the licencees of food products including packaged drinking water and these measures include suspension of marketing, cancellation of licence and stoppage marking of BIS logo in different conditions.